

GLOSSARY OF TERMS AND ACRONYMS

ACRONYM or Term	WHAT IT STANDS FOR OR DEFINITION
AC	Area Conservationist
ACP	Agricultural Conservation Program (Program no longer in existence)
ACS	Alternative Conservation System - A conservation system for treating sheet, rill wind, and ephemeral gully erosion on highly erodible land (HEL) that is documented in the FOTG and which achieves a substantial reduction from existing soil loss rates.
Adverse Impacts	The result of applying a practice to address one problem, but in doing so creates another problem.
Agricultural land	Land that is intensively used and managed for the production of food and fiber. Examples are cropland, hayland and pastures, including native pastures and rangeland, orchards, vineyards, areas which support wetland crops, other lands used to produce or support the production of livestock, and small tree farms.
Agroecology	A science term used to describe an integrated or systems way of thinking about agriculture. The study of interrelationships of agriculture (the farmer or rancher) with its environment (resources, social issues, and economic considerations, and legal requirements).
Alternatives	A set of one or more options provided to the client to solve resource problems or address opportunities and achieve proper management of the resources.
Alternative Conservation	A conservation system for treating sheet, rill, wind and ephemeral gully erosion on highly erodible land that is documented in the FOTG and which achieves a substantial reduction in soil loss rates. This term applies only to conservation plans and conservation systems developed to carry out the provisions of the Food Security Act of 1985, as amended by the Food, Agriculture, Conservation and Trade Act of

ACRONYM or TERM	WHAT IT STANDS FOR OR DEFINITION
Alternative System	<p>1990, and the Federal Agricultural Improvement and Reform Act of 1996.</p> <p>A conservation management system, meeting resource quality criteria, that is presented to a client during the planning process as one of multiple alternatives to address resource problems/opportunities. When a client decides which of the offered alternative systems will be implemented, the selected alternative becomes the planned system.</p>
AMTA	Agricultural Market Transition Act (1966)
AO	Area Offices
AO	All Offices
APHIS	Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
Application	Installing planned conservation practices, management measures, and management systems on the land.
ASA	American Society of Agronomy
ASAE	American Society of Agricultural Engineers
ASCE	American Society of Civil Engineers
ASCS	Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service. Now known as the Farm Service Agency (FSA).
Assistance Notes	<p>Notes maintained by planners in the case file for each individual client receiving planning and implementation assistance. The notes are to be a concise, factual, and chronological narrative of significant conservation activities, and may summarize progress in planning and implementation. These notes can fall into several categories: business comment, correspondence, historical, legal/location, objective, plan note, resource problem/opportunity, and technical assistance.</p>
ASTC	Assistant State Conservationist

ACRONYM or TERM	WHAT IT STANDS FOR OR DEFINITION
AU	Animal Unit - An animal unit is one mature cow of approximately 1,000 pounds and a calf up to weaning, usually 6 months of age or their equivalent.
AUM	Animal Unit Months - The amount of forage required by an animal unit for 1 month.
AW	An area that is artificial or irrigation induced wetland.
AW/FW	An area that contains both AW and FW
AW/W	An area that contains both AW and W.
AWP	Areawide Conservation Plan - A plan developed with the client for a watershed or other geographical area defined by the client and stakeholder. The plan addresses all resource problems identified, and contains alternative solutions that meet the minimum quality criteria for each resource, and applicable laws and regulations.
AWQPP	Agriculture Water Quality Protection Program
Benchmark Condition	The present condition or situation that is used as a point of reference to measure change in resource conditions resulting from conservation treatment. In addition to the benchmark condition, other points of reference are sometimes used for discussion and comparison purposes, especially in an areawide conservation planning situation.
BCS	Basic Conservation System - An erosion control system for treating sheet, rill, wind, and ephemeral gully erosion on highly erodible land (HEL). A BCS may be a component of a Resource Management System (RMS). The BCS must achieve soil loss tolerance requirements for the principle soil it is designed to protect and be documented in the FOTG. This term applies only to conservation plans and conservation systems developed to carry out the provisions of the Food Security Act of 1985, as amended by the Food, Agriculture, Conservation and Trade Act of 1990, and the Federal Agricultural Improvement and Reform Act of 1996.

ACRONYM or TERM	WHAT IT STANDS FOR OR DEFINITION
Benchmark Narrative	A written statement of the benchmark condition. The narrative includes a description of current conditions, crops, soils, major resource problems etc., including conservation practices installed that meet NRCS standards and those that do not.
Benchmark Practices	Existing conservation practices included in the current management system for the planning unit. These practices meet NRCS standards.
BIA	Bureau of Indian Affairs
BLM	Bureau of Land Management
BOR	Bureau of Reclamation
BOD	Biological oxygen demand
C	Climatic Factor for Wind Erosion Equation
C	Crop Management Factor (used in RUSLE and old USLE)
Cadre	A nucleus of trained personnel capable of assuming control and training others.
Case File	The record of resource information, decisions, and technical assistance for a specific client. A case file is established and maintained in the NRCS field office for each client where NRCS has decided to provide continuing technical assistance on a planning unit. The case file will be maintained in FOCS. Information not amenable to electronic format will be maintained in hard copy under the client's name.
Case Studies	Usually farms/ranches that have been used to study and develop a conservation management system using all aspects of the planning process (CPPE, SSPEW, CED).
CC	Commenced conversion exemption.
CCA	Certified Crop Adviser
CCC	Civilian Conservation Corps

ACRONYM or TERM	WHAT IT STANDS FOR OR DEFINITION
CCC	Commodity Credit Corporation
CD	Conservation District - A subdivision of a state, Indian Tribe, or territory, organized pursuant to the state soil conservation district law, as amended, or Tribal law. May be called soil conservation districts, soil and water conservation districts, resource conservation districts, land conservation committees, or natural resource districts.
CEC	Cation Exchange Capacity
CED	Conservation Effects for Decisionmaker - A process that supports the NRCS planning process. An analytical process that helps in conservation planning. It uses worksheets, client case studies, and other technologies to document and estimate effects of benchmark systems and conservation management systems, evaluate impacts, and gauge advantages and disadvantages to help the end user make informed conservation decisions.
CEQ	Council on Environmental Quality - Established by NEPA Act 1970.
CES -	Cooperative Extension Service
CFR	Code of Federal Regulation
CFOP or CFO	Conservation Farm Option Program
CIN	Contract item number
Client	An individual, group, or unit of government that is the recipient of NRCS technical assistance. Specific client types are person, group, Tribe, corporation, organization, conservation district, and units of government.
CMS	Conservation Management System - Any combination of conservation practices and management that achieves a level of treatment of the resources that satisfies criteria in the FOTG for a resource management system

ACRONYM or TERM	WHAT IT STANDS FOR OR DEFINITION
CMS Option	This is a description of the conservation management system proposed to correct the problems noted in the benchmark. The worksheet is structured to list the soil, water, air, plants, and animal resources (SWAPA).
CMU or CTU	Conservation Management Unit or Conservation Treatment Unit - A field, group of fields, or other land units of the same land use and having similar treatment needs and planned management. CMU is a grouping by the planner to simplify planning activities and facilitate development of conservation management systems. A CMU has definite boundaries, such as fence, drainage, vegetation, topography, or soil lines.
CNI	Conservation Needs Inventory
COC	County Office Committees
COE	Corps of Engineers
Compliance Plan	A document provided for clients to comply with the highly erodible provisions of the Food Security Act of 1985, as amended.
Conservation District Cooperator	Any client who has entered into a working arrangement or cooperative agreement with a conservation district to work together in planning and carrying out a resource use, development, and conservation on a specific land area.
Comprehensive Plan	A plan for an area under the jurisdiction of a unit of government that may include, but is not limited to, policies, goals, and interrelated plans for private and public land use, transportation systems, community facilities, and capital improvements. The plan represents the decisions of local people as expressed through units of government. This type of plan may also be called a general plan, master plan, or a regional development plan.
Common Resource Areas	A geographical area where resource concerns, problems, and treatment needs are similar. Landscape conditions, soil, climate, human considerations, and other natural resource information is used to determine the geographical boundaries of the common resource area.

ACRONYM or TERM	WHAT IT STANDS FOR OR DEFINITION
Conservation Plan	A record of the client's decisions and supporting information, for treatment of a unit of land or water, that meets FOTG quality criteria for each natural resource (soil, water, air, plants, animals) and takes into account economic and social considerations. The plan describes the schedule of operations and activities needed to solve identified natural resource problems, and takes advantage of opportunities, at a conservation management system level.
Conservation Planning	The activity of NRCS and others in using the NRCS planning process intended to result in a conservation plan or areawide conservation plan (Reference General Manual 180, Part 409).
Conservation Practice	A specific treatment, such as a structural or vegetative measure, or management technique commonly used to meet a specific need in planning and carrying out soil and water conservation programs for which standards have been developed. Conservation practices are in the FOTG, Section IV, which is based on the National Handbook of Conservation Practices (NHCP).
Conservation treatment	Any and all conservation practices, management measures, and works of improvement that have the purpose of solving or reducing the severity of natural resource use problems or taking advantage of resource opportunities.
CPPE	Conservation Practices Physical Effects matrix - The matrix in the FOTG, Section V, that gives the physical effects of each conservation practice on soil, water, air, plants, and animals.
CR	Civil Rights
CR / CRs	Cultural Resources - Reference General Manual 420, Part 401 and 601.
CRA	Common Resource Area - Provides information benefiting the planning process by providing common benchmark and CMS options for the area where the planning unit is located.
CREP	Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program
CRM	Coordinated Resource Management

ACRONYM or TERM	WHAT IT STANDS FOR OR DEFINITION
Cropland	Land use designation for land used primarily for the production of field crops or orchard crops, alone or in association with sod crops.
CSSA	Crop Science Society of America
CRP	Conservation Reserve Program
CTIC	Conservation Technology Information Center
CWA	Clean Water Act
CWAP	Clean Water Action Plan
CW	Converted Wetland - An area converted between December 23, 1985 and November 28, 1990.
CW	CW+year An area converted after November 28, 1990.
CWNA	A wetland area converted to other than agricultural commodity production.
CWTE	An area converted or commenced based on an incorrect NRCS determination or misinformation from a NRCS or FSA employee.
DAR	Designated Agency Representative
DC	District Conservationist
Decisionmaker	An individual, group, unit of government, or other entity that has the authority by ownership, position, office, delegation, or otherwise to decide on a course of action.
Drill seeding	Planting seeds in relatively narrow rows, generally less than a foot apart. This piece of equipment makes a small, usually straight furrow in the soil with a hoe or coulter which the seeds are sown at the proper depth and then covers them.
DSR	Damage Survey Report

ACRONYM or TERM	WHAT IT STANDS FOR OR DEFINITION
EA	Environmental Assessment - A concise public document that briefly provides sufficient evidence and analysis for determining whether to prepare an environmental impact statement or a finding of no significant impact.
EA	Educational Assistance
EAC	Environment Awareness Council
ECARP	Environmental Conservation Acreage Reserve Program
Ecoogical System	The organization and interactions of communities of living things, including humans, together with the chemical and physical factors in their environment.
EE	Environmental Evaluation - A concurrent part of the planning process in which the potential long and short term impacts of an action on people, their physical or social surroundings, and nature are evaluated and alternative actions explored.
EEO	Equal Employment Opportunity
EEP	Environmental Easement Program
Effects	The measures of the results of the existing or current treatment (benchmark). They are also the anticipated or experienced results of applying one or more conservation treatments on a planning unit. Effects may be qualitative or quantitative.
EI	Erosion Index
EIS	Environmental Impact Statements - A document detailing the environmental impact of a proposed law, construction project, or other major actions that may significantly affect the quality of the environment. EIS's are required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and various state environmental laws.
ENG	Engineering (Staff)
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency

ACRONYM or TERM	WHAT IT STANDS FOR OR DEFINITION
Ephemeral gullies	Ephemeral gullies may be of any size but are usually larger than rills. They also will have one or more of the following characteristics: recur in the same area each time they form, frequently form in well-drained depressions in natural drainageways, usually occur in the upper reaches of a drainage network, usually branching, but may have other patterns caused by row alignment or other characteristics of field operations, generally wider, deeper, and longer than rills on the field, occur in depressions into which rows or tillage marks lead, form along sloping rows or tillage marks, partially or totally erased and filled by tillage operations (the filling results in deterioration over a larger area than the gully itself).
EQIP	Environmental Quality Incentives Program
ERS	Economic Research Service
ESA	Endangered Species ACT - Reference General Manual 190, Part 410.
ET	Evapo Transpiration
EWP	Emergency Watershed Program (may also be known as EWRP, emergency watershed protection program).
FAC	Food and Agricultural Council
Facilitating Practice	A conservation practice that facilitates management or the function of a primary practice or both, but does not achieve the desired effects on its own. They may not have a direct effect, but are needed to achieve the desired treatment.
FACTA	Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade ACT of 1990
FAIRA	Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform ACT of 1996
FARM*A*SYST	Farmstead Assessment System
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FIFRA	Federal Insecticides, Fungicide, & Rodenticide ACT
FIP	Forestry Incentives Program

ACRONYM or TERM	WHAT IT STANDS FOR OR DEFINITION
FIRI	Farm Irrigation Rating Index
FO	Field Office
FOCS	Field Office Computing System - The only authorized electronic system for recording and storing information on individual clients.
FOIA	Freedom of Information ACT
Follow-up	The act of maintaining contact with the client to provide timely assistance in implementing decisions, keeping current with new technology, encouraging continued implementation, updating objectives and decisions in a conservation plan, and determining the conservation effects experienced.
FONSI	Finding of No Significant Impact - A document indicating that no significant environmental impact will occur with a proposed activity.
Forestland	Land use designation for land on which the primary vegetation is forest (climax, natural, or introduced plant community) and use is primarily for production of wood products.
FOTG	Field Office Technical Guide - The official NRCS guidelines, criteria, and standards for planning and applying conservation treatments (General Manual 450, Part 401).
FS	Forest Service
FS FSA	Farmstead Farm Services Agency
FSA	Food Security Act of 1985
FW	An area that is farmed wetland; was manipulated and planted before December 23, 1985, but still meets wetland criteria.
FWP	An area that is pasture or hayland; manipulated before December 23, 1990, but still meets wetland criteria and is not abandoned.

ACRONYM or TERM	WHAT IT STANDS FOR OR DEFINITION
GLA	Grazing Land Applications
GLCI	Private Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative
GM	General Manual
GPCP	Great Plains Conservation Program
GR	Government Representative
GRASS	Geographic Resource Analysis Support System
Grazed Forest	Land use designation for forest land that produces understory vegetation that is used for production of livestock.
Grazed Range	Land use designation for rangeland that is used primarily for the production of domestic livestock. Includes native plant communities and those seeded to native or introduced species or naturalized by introduced species, that are ecologically managed using range management principles.
Group	Two or more clients who are cooperating to achieve common or mutual conservation objectives to address natural resource or related problems, concerns, or opportunities.
Group Leaders	They help guide their assigned group through the planning process and help facilitate the teaching and learning experience.
Group members	They carry out the planning process, as a group, on the unit. Members share their own planning experience and knowledge with the rest of the group.
Guidance Documents	Documents contained in the FOTG, Section III, that show examples of RMS options to treat the most commonly identified resource problems/opportunities for each locally applicable major land use.
Gullies	Gullies are channels too deep for normal tillage operations to erase or equipment to be able to cross. Special operations are required to fill them. They may also have one or more of the following

ACRONYM or TERM	WHAT IT STANDS FOR OR DEFINITION
	characteristics: may grow or enlarge from year to year by head cutting or lateral widening, may occur in depressions and natural drainageways, may begin as ephemeral gully that was not treated, and may become partially stabilized by grass, weeds, or woody vegetation.
Hayland	Land use designation for land on which perennial plants are managed for hay production. (Annual plants planted for hay and forage crops in short-term rotation are cropland.)
HQ or Headquarters	Land use designation for land used for dwellings, barns, pens, corrals, or other facilities used in connection with farm and ranch operations.
HEL / HE	Highly Erodible Land
HELC	Highly Erodible Land Conservation Provision of the 1985 Act, as amended.
Holistic	Of or pertaining to the whole, with considerations for all the parts of the whole and their relationships among and between each other.
Horizon	A layer of soil or soil material approximately parallel to the land surface and differing from adjacent layers in physical, chemical, and biological properties or characteristics such as color, structure, texture, consistence, kinds and numbers of organisms present, degree of acidity or alkalinity.
HRC	High Residue Crop
HUA	Hydrologic Unit Area
Human Considerations	The potential sociological, economic, and cultural resource factors that should be considered in the natural resources conservation planning process.
I	Wind Erodibility Index - An estimate of soil loss in tons per acre per year.
I&E	Inventory and evaluation

ACRONYM or TERM	WHAT IT STANDS FOR OR DEFINITION
Impact	The difference that exists between the effects of the benchmark and the effects of the proposed alternative. The effects are outcomes or results. They may be expressed in monetary, physical or narrative terms. Impacts are used as a basis for making informed conservation decisions.
Indicator	The description or measurement of a resource concern that, when observed periodically, indicates or demonstrates trends. Directly linked to indicators are target values which identify a specific quantitative or qualitative estimate for the desired state of the resource concern.
Instructors	Provide the classroom instruction and the instruction in the field relative to their particular site and land use on the farm/ranch.
IPM	Integrated Pest Management
ISIS	Information System Integrated Support
IT	Information technology
ITC	Information Technology Center
IWM	Irrigation Water Management
K	The soil Erodibility factor established for a particular soil (used in RUSLE and old USLE). A relative index of the susceptibility of bare, cultivated soil to particle detachment, removal, and transportation by rain.
Land Unit	Any area of land that is of concern to NRCS in the planning process.
Land Use	A term used by NRCS to identify the intent of the client with regard to the purpose to which a land unit is to be put. The two designations of land use are the official NRCS designation, and the client land use designation agreed to by the client and planner.

ACRONYM or TERM	WHAT IT STANDS FOR OR DEFINITION
Landowner	The person who owns or holds title to the parcel of land.
LEPA	Low Energy Precision Application (irrigation)
LESA	Land Evaluation and Site Assessment - A system developed by USDA-NRCS to determine the quality of land for agricultural uses and to assess sites or land areas for their agricultural viability.
LISA	Low Input Sustainable Agriculture
LRC	Low Residue Crop
LRF	Limited Resource Farmers
LTA	Long Term Agreement
Ls	Length and steepness factor (used in RUSLE and old USLE)
LTC	Long Term Contracting
Map Unit	A collection of areas defined and named the same in terms of their soil components or miscellaneous areas, or both.
Mined	Land use designation for land on which the soil has been disturbed by the mining of minerals.
MIW	A converted wetland, farmed wetland, or farmed wetland pasture on which functions and values were lost and are compensated for through wetland restoration, enhancement or creation.
MLRA	Major Land Resource Area
MO	Major Land Resource Area Office
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MUIR	Map Unit Interpretation Record
MUR	Map Unit Record

ACRONYM or TERM	WHAT IT STANDS FOR OR DEFINITION
MW	An area determined to be minimal effect.
MWM	An area determined to be minimal effect with mitigation.
NACD	National Association of Conservation Districts
NAD	National Appeals Division
NAL	National Agricultural Library
NASCA	National Association of State Conservation Agencies
NASDA	National Association of State Departments of Agriculture
NASIS	National Soils Information System
NASS	National Agricultural Statistical Service
Native or Naturalized Pasture	Forest land that is used primarily for the production of forage for grazing by livestock rather than for the production of wood products. Overstory trees are removed or managed to promote the native or introduced understory vegetation occurring on the site. This vegetation is managed for its forage value through the use of grazing management principles.
Natural Area	Land use designation for land and water used primarily for the preservation, protection, and observation of the existing resources. Some of these may be officially designated by legislation or other authorities.
Natural Resource	Any naturally occurring resource needed by an organism, population, or ecological system. NRCS applies this term to soil, water, air, plants, and animals.
NED	National Economic Development
NEDC	National Employee Development Center
NEDS	National Employee Development Staff
NEH	National Engineering Handbook

ACRONYM or TERM	WHAT IT STANDS FOR OR DEFINITION
NEM	National Engineering Manual
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act - The 1970 Act that requires Federal agencies to consider the effects on the environment of proposed Federal actions. This Act established the requirement for conducting environmental evaluations and for the preparation of environmental assessments and environmental impact statements.
NFC	National Finance Center
NFSAM	National Food Security Act Manual
NHCP	National Handbook of Conservation Practices
NHEL	Non-highly Erodible Land
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act
NIMS	National Information Management System
NLEAP	Nitrate Leaching Environmental Analysis Program
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NPRTT	Northern Plains Resource Technical Team
NPPH	National Planning Procedures Handbook
NPS	National Park Service
NRCS	Natural Resources Conservation Service
NRI	National Resource Inventory
NW	An area that does not contain a wetland.
NWS OA	National Weather Service Operating Agreement

ACRONYM or TERM	WHAT IT STANDS FOR OR DEFINITION
Offsite	Locations outside the area on which conservation treatment is being considered. Also refers to areas outside the planning unit that should be considered for potential impacts.
OGC	Office of General Council
OIG	Office of Inspector General
OJT	On the Job Training
OMB	Office of Management and Budget
Onsite	Locations within the area on which conservation treatment is being considered.
OPM	Office of Personnel Management
OSHA	Occupational Safety and Health Administration
PA	Privacy Act
PAS	Public Affairs Specialist
PASIS	Programs Activities Support Information System
Pastureland	Land use designation for grazing lands comprised of introduced or domesticated native forage species that are used primarily for the production of domestic livestock. They receive periodic renovation and/or cultural treatments, such as tillage, fertilization, mowing, weed control, and may be irrigated.
PC	An area that is prior converted cropland, which was drained, filled, or manipulated before December 23, 1985; was cropped prior to December 23, 1985; was not abandoned; and does not meet FW criteria.
PC/NW	An are that contains both PC and NW.
PEAS	Plant Evaluation Automation System

ACRONYM or TERM	WHAT IT STANDS FOR OR DEFINITION
PFC.	Production Flexibility Contract
pH	Soil pH is an expression of the degree of acidity or alkalinity of a soil.
PHE	Potentially Highly Erodible
PIP	Productivity Improvement Program
Photomosaic	
Plan Map	A photograph or sketch of a land area developed during the planning process that shows property boundaries, land boundaries, physical features, location of planned and applied practices, and other features that are useful to the client in plan implementation.
Planner	A person qualified by training and experience, who effectively assists the client in completing the planning process.
Planning process	The nine-step process NRCS uses to help clients plan and apply conservation treatments or make land use and treatment decisions.
Planter	A machine used to open up the soil to plant tubers, cuttings or seeds at specific intervals in relatively wide rows (20" to 40") apart. This piece of equipment makes straight furrow in the soil with a opener and then covers them.
PLS	Pure Live Seed
PMC	Plant Materials Center
PMCM	Plant Materials Center Manager
PMS	Plant Materials Specialist
Practice narrative	A brief non-technical description of the planned practice.
Primary practice	A conservation practice that treats the main resource problem identified.
PRISM PRZM	Property Resources and Information System Management Pesticide Rootzone Model

ACRONYM or TERM	WHAT IT STANDS FOR OR DEFINITION
PSU	Primary Sample Unit
Progressive Planning	A continuing process based on the client making decisions in stages on the use and treatment of the planning unit with the potential that all needed decisions will be made at some time in the future.
Quality Criteria	A quantitative or qualitative statement of treatment level required to achieve a Conservation Management System for identified resource considerations for a particular land area. Established in accordance with local, state and Federal programs and regulations in consideration of ecological, economic, or social effects.
R	Rainfall Factor (used in RUSLE and old USLE)
RAMP	Rural Abandoned Mine Program
Rangeland	A kind of land on which the historic climax vegetation was predominantly grasses, grass-like plants, forbs, or shrubs. Rangelands include natural grasslands, savannas, most deserts, tundra, alpine plant communities, coastal marshes, and wet meadows.
RB	River Basin
RC	Resource Conservationist
RCA	Resources Conservation Act (1977)
RC&D	Resource Conservation and Development
RECD	Rural Economic and Community Development
Recreation	Land use designation for land and water used and managed for recreational purposes.
REAP	Rural Environmental Assistance Program
Resource Problem	The condition related to one or more resources that does not meet the minimum acceptable condition levels as established by resource criteria shown in the FOTG, Section III.

ACRONYM or TERM	WHAT IT STANDS FOR OR DEFINITION
RMA	Risk Management Agency
RMS	Range Management Specialist
RMS	Resource Management System - A prescribed combination of conservation practices and management identified by land or water uses that, when implemented, prevents resource degradation and permits sustained use by meeting criteria established in the FOTG for treatment of soil, water, air, plants, and animal resources.
RTAG	Regional Technical Advisory Group
RTT	Resource Technical Team
RUSLE	Revised Universal Soil Loss Equation
RWEQ	Revised Wind Erosion Equation
RZWQM	Root Zone Water Quality Model
SA	State Agronomist
SAR	Sodium Adsorption Ratio - A measure of the activities of sodium relative to calcium and magnesium in the soil solution.
SC	Soil Conservationist
SCA	State Conservation Agronomist
SCD	Soil Conservation District
SCE	State Conservation Engineer
SCS	Soil Conservation Service, which was created by the Soil Conservation Act of 1935. Now known as the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).
SEB	State Emergency Board

ACRONYM or TERM	WHAT IT STANDS FOR OR DEFINITION
SES	Soil Erosion Service - This agency was established in 1933 in the Department of Interior to accelerate process of soil conservation.
SGe	Small Grain Equivalent (residue)
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Officer
SIR	Soil Interpretation Record
SNOTEL	Snow Pack Telemetry - This is the automated snow survey data collection system.
SO	State Office
Soil Description	A listing of soil properties, both site and profile, specific to a geographical location.
Soil Profile	A vertical section of the soil from the surface through all of its horizons, including C horizons.
SPISP	Soil Pesticide Interaction Screening Procedure
SRC	State Resource Conservationist
SRM	Society for Range Management
SRMS	State Range Management Specialist
SRPG	Soil Rating for Plant Growth
SS	Soil Scientist
SSS	State Soil Scientist
SMART	Simple Model to Asses Range Technology
SPUR	Simulation of Production and Utilization of Rangeland

ACRONYM or TERM	WHAT IT STANDS FOR OR DEFINITION
SSPE / SSPEW	Site Specific Practice Effects / Site Specific Practice Effects Worksheet - The expected effect that a particular conservation practice has on defined resource problems/opportunities in a site specific situation. Represents the planner's refinement of more general effects shown in the CPPE Matrix in the FOTG, Section V.
SSSD	State Soil Survey Database
SSSA	Soil Science Society of America
SSURGO	Soil Survey Geographic Database
Stakeholder	An individual or group of clients that may or may not be decision makers and who have an interest in or may be impacted by actions recommended through application of the NRCS planning process.
STATSCO	Status of State Geographic Database
STC	State Conservationist
Sustainability	Implies a long-term maintenance of productivity of farming systems without degrading the resource base upon which agriculture depends.
SWAPA	A term used to describe the resources to be considered in the planning process. The letters stand for: soil, water, air, plants and animals.
SWAPAH	A term used to describe the resources to be considered in the planning process. The letters stand for: soil, water, air, plants and animals plus the human side for planning process.
SWCS	Soil And Water Conservation Society
System Narrative	A description of the existing, proposed, or planned conservation practices and management measures associated with specific land units for a client and business. The description defines how well the system meets NRCS criteria, if at all. Alternative, planned, and completed systems meet criteria specified in the FOTG. Benchmark systems

ACRONYM or TERM	WHAT IT STANDS FOR OR DEFINITION
T	may not meet FOTG specifications; deficiencies can be noted in the description and system evaluation records.
T	Soil loss tolerance - This indicates the estimated maximum rate of annual soil loss erosion (in tons/acre) that will permit crop production to be sustained economically and indefinitely.
T&E	Threatened and Endangered Species
Technical Assistance	Help provided by NRCS and employees of other agencies under the technical supervision of NRCS to clients on opportunities, potentials, and problems related to natural resource use.
TECHIS	Technology Information System
TNC	The Nature Conservancy
TQM	Total Quality Management
Traditionalists	The people that are satisfied with what they are now doing. They see no need to change as their current methods are working for them.
Urban	Land use designation for land occupied by buildings and related facilities used for residences, industrial sites, institutional sites, public highways, airports, and similar uses associated with towns and cities.
USBR	United States Bureau of Reclamation
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
USDI	United States Department of Interior
USFS or FS	United States Forest Service
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
USGS	United States Geological Survey
USLE	Universal Soil Loss Equation (this has been replaced by RUSLE)

ACRONYM or TERM	WHAT IT STANDS FOR OR DEFINITION
W	An area meeting wetland criteria, including wetland farmed under natural conditions.
Walk-in	A recipient of information that does not result in the development of a case file and practices applied to the land. Walk-ins include people who visit or call the office for information or assistance.
Water	A geographic area whose dominate characteristic is open water, but may include a large proportion of intermingled land including coastal marsh lands.
WEG	Wind Erodibility Group - A grouping of soils with similar properties affecting their resistance to soil blowing. Soil texture, soil particle size, presence of carbonates, and the degree of decomposition of organic soils are major criteria.
WEPP	Water Erosion Prediction Program
WEPS	Wind Erosion Prediction System
WEQ	Wind Erosion Equation
WHIP	Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program
Wildlife	Land use designation for land or water used, protected, and managed primarily as habitat for wildlife.
WQIC	Water Quality Information Center
WRP	Wetland Reserve Program
WUE	Water Use Efficiency
If the term can not be found in this glossary, more terms can be found in the National Planning Procedures Handbook (NPPH).	

ACRONYM or TERM	WHAT IT STANDS FOR OR DEFINITION